

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01505 061743Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /073 W

-----126731 061752Z /43

P 061610Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8351

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 1505

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, PGOV, US, CI

SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: CHILEAN PRESS QUESTIONING GOC
JUDGMENT

REF: SANTIAGO 1446

1. EDITORIALS IN RIGHTIST TABLOID "LA SEGUNDA", PRO-GOVERNMENT
"QUE PASA" AND STAID "EL MERCURIO" URGE THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT
TO MAKE PUBLIC PROMPTLY THE FACTS REGARDING THE OFFICIAL PASSPORTS
AND SUPPORTING REQUEST FOR A US VISA OBTAINED BY THE TWO MEN
WANTED FOR QUESTIONING IN CONNECTION WITH THE LETELIER/MOFFITT
ASSASSINATION. ALL THREE EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR THE GOC TO COOPERATE
FULLY IN THE INVESTIGATION AND RECOGNIZE THE COSTS TO CHILE'S
NAME AS WELL AS TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT DELAYS IN CLARIFYING
THE SITUATION WILL CAUSE.

2. "MERCURIO" GOES FURTHER THAN THE OTHER JOURNALS.
THE CENTER EDITORIAL MARCH 4 MAKES A PERHAPS DISINGENUOUS DISTINCTION
BETWEEN THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE LETTERS
ROGATORY (WHICH SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET) AND THE ASSERTION THAT THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED PASSPORTS AND ASKED FOR VISAS FOR THE
PAIR. THE LATTER DEMANDS A PROMPT, PUBLIC CLARIFICATION.
(COMMENT: "MERCURIO'S" FACILE DISTINCTION IS NOT SO CLEAR TO US.)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTIA 01505 061743Z

3. "MERCURIO'S" MAJOR SUNDAY EDITORIAL (WRITTEN BY ARTURO
FONTAINE) APPROACHES THE ISSUE FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE. IT
CONTAINS AN UNUSUALLY STRONG INDICTMENT OF THE GOC'S HANDLING
OF PEACEFUL DISSENT EMPHASIZING THE ADVERSE INTERNATIONAL REACTION.
"MERCURIO" STATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY TO CRACK DOWN
IS NOT IN QUESTION, BUT THE POLITICAL COSTS ARE VERY HIGH
IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE EDITORIAL CONCERNTRATES ON THE

RELEGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DOZEN (REFTEL) AND THE GOC'S INITIAL REFUSAL LAST NOVEMBER TO PERMIT THE THREE RELATIVES OF MISSING PERSONS TO REENTER THE COUNTRY. IT THEN NOTES THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF A CAREER DIPLOMAT SUCH AS MIGUEL BARROS TO WASHINGTON IS A GOOD STEP, BUT BARROS' EFFECTIVENESS WILL BE LIMITED BY DECISIONS TAKEN IN SANTIAGO. THIS GETS FONTAINE TO HIS MAJOR POINT: THE WORLD (AND THE US PRESIDENT) ARE WATCHING HOW THE GOC HANDLES THE LETELIER CASE AND FULL COOPERATION IS AN ABSOLUTE MUST.

4. COMMENT: THE CONTINUING RELUCTANCE OR INABILITY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON HOW THE TWO MEN OBTAINED THEIR PASSPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION HAS CAUSED EVEN GOC SUPPORTERS TO WONDER JUST WHAT IS GOING ON. WHILE THE EDITORIALISTS SEEM WILLING TO BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEM IS ONE OF POOR PUBLIC RELATIONS RATHER THAN DELIBERATE DELAY, THERE IS AN UNDERCURRENT OF SKEPTICISM AND THE BEGINNINGS OF AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN THESE PUBLICATIONS AND THE GOC.
BOYATT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ASSASSINATION, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTIA01505
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780100-1103
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803102/aaaadipv.tcl
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0027f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANTIAGO 1446
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3105727
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: CHILEAN PRESS QUESTIONING GOC JUDGMENT
TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, PGOV, SOPN, US, CI, (LETELIER, ORLANDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0027f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014